

Today's Advertisements.

TRAUER-GOTTESDIENST.
ZUR Gedächtnis eines untern ALT-REICHSKA
den Teuersten Bismarck
am Samstag den 6 ten August 1898
Abends 6 Uhr
in die deutschen Kapelle "BETHESDA."
A memorial service for the late Prince Bismarck will be held on
SATURDAY, 6th August, 1898 at 6 P.M.
at the German Chapel "BETHESDA."
Hongkong, 4th August, 1898. [935]

THE DRAGON CYCLE DEPOT.
MESSRS. WILLIAMS and GIBSON
having left the Colony the above
BUSINESS has been taken over and will be
carried on by the Undersigned,
ROBERT A. COLLINS.
REPAIRS of all descriptions NEATLY and
PROMPTLY executed. Cycles on hire by
the day or week. Terms very moderate.
Hongkong, 4th August, 1898. [940]

CHINA NAVIGATION COMPANY, LIMITED.
FOR SHANGHAI.
THE Company's Steamship
"TIENTSIN,"
Captain Dawson, will be despatched as above
on SATURDAY, the 6th instant, at Noon.
For Freight or Passage, apply to
BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,
Agents.
Hongkong, 4th August, 1898. [939]

FOR NEW YORK, VIA SUEZ CANAL.
THE Steamship
"CRAIGHEARN,"
will be despatched as above on or about
the 15th instant.
For Freight, &c., apply to
SHEWAN, TOMES & Co.
Agents.
Hongkong, 4th August, 1898. [941]

OCCIDENTAL AND ORIENTAL STEAMSHIP COMPANY.
NOTICE.
CONSIGNEES OF CARGO per Steamship
"COPTIC,"
THE above Steamer having arrived, Consignees of Cargo are hereby requested to send in their Bills of Lading for countersignature and to take immediate delivery of their Goods from alongside.
Cargo impeding the discharge of the Vessel will be landed and stored at Consignees' risk and expense.
J. S. VAN BUREN,
Agent.
Hongkong, 4th August, 1898. [1-17 2]

Intimations.
DAKIN, CRICKSHANK & COMPANY,
VICTORIA DISPENSARY,
HONGKONG.
AERATED WATERS.
SIMPLE AERATED WATER.
SODA WATER.
LEMONADE.
GINGER ALE.
SARSAPARILLA.
RASPBERRYVADE, &c.
DAKIN, CRICKSHANK & Co.'s WATERS are made under the constant supervision of a duly qualified English Chemist and will bear comparison with the best English Manufactures.
Special terms to HOTELS, CLUBS, MESSES and other Large Consumers.
Any complaints should be addressed to the Manager.
Hongkong, 1st March, 1897. [32]

TO SUBSCRIBERS.
SUBSCRIBERS TO "THE HONGKONG TELEGRAPH" ARE MOST RESPECTFULLY REMINDED THAT ALL SUBSCRIPTIONS MUST BE PAID IN ADVANCE.
A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.
MANUFACTURERS OF
AERATED WATERS.
AERATED WATERS of our manufacture are sold throughout the Far East and are invariably preferred on account of their excellence. Absolute Purity is guaranteed. The best materials only are used. The Prices are only half those charged in England. WATERS MANUFACTURED BY US are acknowledged by the leading English makers to be equal to those of their own production. SIR EDWARD FRANKLAND, K.C.B., D.C.L., F.R.S., F.C.S., &c. the greatest living authority on Water, reports as follows on the water as prepared and used by us in our manufacture:—"It possesses an extremely high degree of organic purity and is of most excellent quality for drinking."

A. S. WATSON & CO., LD.
THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.
ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.
Hongkong, 18th June, 1898. [7]

NOTES TO CORRESPONDENTS.
(It is requested that all communications relating to Subscriptions, Advertisements, &c., be addressed to the "Manager, Hongkong Telegraph," and not to the Editor.)
Letters on Editorial matters to be sent to "The Editor" and not to individual members of the staff.
Communications intended for publication must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication, but as evidence of good faith.
While the Editor of the Hongkong Telegraph will always be open to the fair discussion by correspondents of all questions affecting public interests, it must be distinctly understood that the Editor does not in any way hold himself responsible for opinions thus expressed.
TO ADVERTISERS.
Advertisers are requested to forward all notices intended for insertion in this paper, not later than Three o'clock on the day prior to the publication of the paper.
Advertisements and Subscriptions which are not ordered for a fixed period will be continued until discontinued.
The Hongkong Telegraph has the largest circulation of any English newspaper published in the Far East, and it therefore the best medium for Advertisers. Terms can be learned on application. The Hongkong Telegraph's number at the Telephone Company Exchange is No. 1. Telegraphic address: "Tele. sub." Hongkong.

THE HONGKONG TELEGRAPH.
HONGKONG, THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 1898.
NOTES AND COMMENTS.
The Reuter's message which we publish to-day affords ample food for reflection. Mr. CHAMBERLAIN's celebrated speech caused a wave of excitement to pervade the world for the time being, but it was uttered outside of the House of Commons and therefore could not be regarded as a ministerial statement or in any way binding upon the Government, more particularly as when brought to the attention of the House it was quietly relegated to the back-ground and was not allowed to become a subject of discussion. On the other hand, Lord SALISBURY's statement regarding Great Britain and China, being made in the House of Lords in direct reply to a question by Lord KIMBERLEY, can only be regarded as the voice of the Government and is of a nature to bind the home authorities down to a definite policy as outlined by the speaker. It is not an expression of opinion, but a plain statement of fact and as such must carry weight.

Lord SALISBURY's utterance is nothing more or less than an assurance to China that Great Britain is ready and willing to protect her so soon as occasion may arise, and it is also a direct menace and challenge to other Powers, and to Russia in particular. A telegram from Peking to the North China Daily News dated 29th July states: "The Chinese complain bitterly that M. PAYKOFF treats China as a subject province," and Lord SALISBURY's assurance of protection is evidently intended as a warning to Russia that Great Britain will not stand idly by and allow China to be coerced, but is willing to fight for her own rights and for those of China as well. Britain evidently does not intend to maintain a strictly neutral policy similar to that which she adopted when the Powers insisted upon the retrocession of the Liaotung Peninsula by Japan. According to Lord SALISBURY the policy of Great Britain is now made manifest, and she only awaits action upon the part of Russia or some other Power to forcibly intervene in the interest of China.

There have been vague rumours afloat for the last few days of an extensive addition shortly to be made to the force of the British fleet in Far Eastern waters, and Lord SALISBURY's statement in the House of Lords lends probability to the whispers which we have heard. If a decided and active policy is now to be adopted with a view to overawing Russia, then it stands to reason that the China Squadron must be put upon a war footing, so we shall not be surprised to see the six more battle-ships, which the rumour says are to be sent out, steaming into Hongkong. If the British Government really intends to check Russian aggression, now is the time to do so. In a few years the Trans-Siberian Railway will be completed and Russia's position in the Far East will be far stronger than at present. A display of force at the present time may oblige Russia to abandon her aggressive policy, or at all events to declare war with a view to enforcing her demands upon China. If it is to be war, then there is nothing to be gained by waiting. We could probably overcome Russia at the present time in the Far East, but whether we could do so in the course of a few years is an open question.

REUTER'S MESSAGES.
A STANDING ARMY FOR THE UNITED STATES.
LONDON, August 2nd.
The Washington Post states that President McKinley has called an extra session of Congress, with a view of passing special legislation for the maintenance of an active army of 100,000 men.
GREAT BRITAIN AND CHINA, THE YANGTZE VALLEY.
Lord Salisbury replying to Lord Kimberley in the House of Lords regarding British interests in the Yangtze Valley, said that the Chinese were well disposed towards British enterprise, but as it had been suggested that they were threatened by other Powers to give them a preference, Sir Claude MacDonald was authorized on the 2nd July, to inform the Chinese Government that Great Britain would support them against any Power committing an act of aggression on China for permitting British subjects to construct or support railways or any other works.
TYPHOON WARNING.
The Observatory report to-day says:—On the 4th at 11.0 A.M. The centre of the typhoon lies to the S.E. of Hongkong and it will probably enter the coast not far from, and to the Eastward of the Colony. Forecast:—Gale, most probably from the N. and W., with rain, squalls.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

SMUGGLING whisky into Murray Barracks to-day cost a coolie \$15 or six weeks.
A COOLIE charged with trespassing on the Navy Yard was to-day fined \$10 or one month.
FOR landing cattle in a prohibited place a junk master was to-day fined \$15 or six weeks.

FOR the week ending 30th July there was one case of plague and one death from the disease in this colony.
Two thieves, one for stealing clothes and the other word were to-day sentenced to twenty-eight days apiece.

A COOLIE charged with attempting to stab his ex-sweetheart with a pair of scissors was to-day fined \$15 in default six weeks.

THE master of the launch *Choy Po* was to-day fined \$50 or one month for carrying twenty-five passengers in excess of his legal complement.

THE postponed water polo match in costume, to which ladies were invited, will be brought off on Wednesday, 10th inst., at 5.15 p.m., should the weather be favourable.

At the Magistracy to-day a school-master from Canton was fined \$30 for being unlawfully in possession of three teals of opium. Another offender of the same kind was fined \$50.

THE Bismarck Memorial Service inaugurated by the German Community of Hongkong and to have been held this evening in the German Chapel has been postponed till 6 p.m. on Saturday on account of the weather.

A CARPENTER who caught a small boy by the queue and struck him was to-day fined \$10 or one month, and ordered to pay as compensation \$2 or ten days' gaol. A witness for the defence was fined \$3 or fourteen days for lying.

FOR white ants an Indian official, Dr. Watt, suggests the use of the field, which has been utilized with good effect by the Thakore Sahib of Gondal, i.e., a mixture of dekamul gum, asafoetida, benzoin aloes, and castor-oil cake.

THE report of the Deputy Master and Comptroller of the Mint for last year shows that the demand for colonial coinage was active throughout the year, and it was actually found impossible to meet fully the requirements of some of the colonies, notably Hongkong and the Straits Settlements.

THE *Malay Mail* bears that the Government will not ignore recent utterances of leading Selangor tin-miners. However keen the authorities be to raise revenue for the carrying out of reproductive public works, the merest hint that any injustice is being perpetrated may be relied upon to bring them up sharp.

A TELEGRAM, dated San Francisco 17th July, states that twenty miners from the Yukon basin and Circle City and Dawson, arrived to-day on the schooner *Matthe E. Phillips* from St. Michaels. The returned prospectors bring \$70,000 in gold and drifts. The miners are confident that the output of Dawson will run over \$25,000,000.

SEÑOR Castelar has been interviewed in the Province of Alicante (a *Morning Post* telegram reports). He said that he desires to devote the remainder of his life to literature. He was getting too old for political life, and he quoted the fallacies of Mr. Gladstone's old age and Prince Bismarck's dismissal. The eighteenth century, he said, witnessed theoligarchical division of Poland. "God grant that the nineteenth century may not witness a similar partition of the dominions of Spain, with the silent approbation of the nations of Europe."

Now that some of our *Afidi* sepoys are returning from leave, writes the Lahore paper, some rather amusing and interesting bits of news are coming to hand. A Malikdin Khel correspondent tells us that when the Aranga Pass was taken, and the *Afidi* saw in earnest that their purdah was lifted, they made all haste to convey their women and children to the Rajwal Hills, but that a great many of the Tirahwal ladies strongly objected and refused to budge, wishing to stop and watch the fun, which they afterwards did on the top of the Rajwal Hills, where the mortality among infants in arms and old folk was very great—a fact which will be long remembered; for the *Afidi*, with all his faults, is proud of his infant son and fond of his aged parent.

A NANKING dispatch reports that hundreds of anonymous placards containing revolutionary sentiments, expressing general dissatisfaction at the scarcity of rice, and laying the blame at the door of corrupt officials, have of late been disseminated amongst the population of Nanking. Some of the placards even finding their way into the principal *yamen* of the city and on the city walls. The people are also told in the placards that if the officials do not relieve the general distress, the people have the right to rise upon their officials and take matters into their own hands. In consequence of the above the Viceroy Lin has been quietly strengthening the garrison of Nanking and has ordered the organization of volunteer corps in the various wards and sections of the city as a supplementary force to the regular troops. Cargoes of rice are, however, almost daily arriving from the neighbouring provinces on the Yangtze, but not in sufficient quantities to allay the fear of famine. The Provincial Treasurer, also, has doubled his Treasury guards to provide against a possible attack at the hands of a hungry mob or the organized attack of *Kolao* Hui bands. Naturally the secret societies are trying to make as much capital as they can out of the general discontent and distrust.—*N. C. D. Notes*.

THE new Chinese cruiser *Hai Chen*, built at Sietia, for the Chinese Government, was expected at Colombo on the 22nd ulto, on her way to China.

As we go to press there appears to be every probability of the gale which has been threatening since yesterday morning amply justifying the Observatory's warning.

At the monthly auction sale of opium at Calcutta, which was held yesterday, Patna fetched Rs. 100 and Benares Rs. 100 as compared with Rs. 90 and Rs. 80 respectively obtained at the previous month's sale.

TSUM-TSUT-TSUI pours forth a wall of noise the nightly behaviour of certain possessors of megaphones in Kowloon, whose performances upon the speaking trumpet are not appreciated as they should be by their neighbours. We should recommend Tsum and his friends to inform the offending persons that their delight in the megaphone is not reciprocated and request them to desist. Should this course fail a report of the nuisance to the nearest Police Station might be efficacious.

THE recent campaign on the Indian Frontier has resulted in numerous anatomical divorces, and the heroes who have thus been mangled and minced are to have artificial limbs supplied to them by a grateful country, free, gratis, and for nothing. Such, at least, was the announcement recently made by the representative of the War Office in the House of Commons, and the natural effect thereof will probably be that thousands of patriotic Englishmen will instantly join the Colours. For, after all, a wooden leg is not such a bad thing with which to stump the country and take in the coin, provided the authorities at the Horse Guards do not interfere.

SOME short time ago a private chair coolie obtained a license to ply for hire. He was approached by several men and told that he would not be permitted to ply unless he gave \$5 to join a Triad Society. He refused and on the 26th ulto. he took a fare in Wellington St. when others told him not to do so. He was badly beaten by these men and took a summons out against them. When he was to appear in court his house was surrounded by men who threatened to kill him if he left the place. He was unable to attend the court and the case was dismissed. A fresh summons was applied for through Inspector Moffatt and three of the accused failed to appear to-day, whereupon the Police Magistrate ordered warrants to be issued. One of the intimidators who was arrested was to-day sent to gaol for three months.

WORK on the Shanghai-Woosung railway has progressed so far that in ten days or so it is expected the rails will be laid right up to Shanghai. At this moment the line is completed to Kongsan between which point and Woosung constant steam traffic is maintained for the transport of materials. The distance is easily covered in about ten minutes. If no hitch occurs now the line ought to be open for general traffic in a very short time. The rails are laid as far as the fourth bridge from the old rifle range. Nearly all the rolling stock that will be required is already on the spot. There are three Brooks locomotives on the line with a number of third-class passenger cars and some cargo trucks, and several first and second-class passenger cars are ready in Tientsin for shipment here as soon as they are required.—*China Gazette*.

ANTI-FOREIGN OUTRAGE IN HUNAN.

(From our own Correspondent.)
WUHU, July 28th.
I have only time to send you a few lines about the most recent anti-foreign outrage of which we have just received the briefest facts. Messrs. Chapin and Alexander, of the International Alliance Mission, while on their way up the Yangtze river, with their own household goods, were stopped by a band of about 200 Chinese, who smashed up, and then burned, by the river, with all things on board. The two travellers barely escaped with their lives on a Chinese gunboat. The officials did nothing to protect them. They, however, supplied them with a small boat in which Messrs. Chapin and Alexander travelled night and day until they reached Changteh. They will be in Hankow in a day or so. The case goes to the U.S. Consul.—*China Gazette*.

PENNY POSTAGE.

Official confirmation has reached India of Reuter's message regarding the introduction of overland penny postage. It seems the decision in question is the result of the recommendations of the Committee which has just finished its sittings in London, on which India was represented by Mr. Kitchener. The resolution now being adopted by the British Government to introduce penny postage in India will do the same Canada and South Africa have joined, but the Australians for the moment are holding off, owing to the difficulty caused by the fact that their own intercolonial rate is as high as two-pence. In regard to India a decision has not yet been arrived at, but the Government of India will now have to consider the matter; and, in the event of Ceylon and the Straits joining, it is difficult to see how India can hold aloof, the total loss of revenue involved, even if there is not an increase in the number of letters sent home, being only about three lakhs of rupees. The only complication in India itself is appreciably higher than that proposed for the home country. A reduction, therefore, will have to be simultaneously made in Indian inland rates. The new system can hardly come into force this year, but it is not improbable that it may do so on the 1st of January next.

At a meeting of the Legislative Council of Ceylon on the 20th instant, Mr. W. W. Mitchell, one of the unofficial members, asked whether the Government of that Colony intended to adopt the penny postage scheme. The Colonial Secretary, Sir E. Noel Walker, said that the Government of the Colony had no official information whatever respecting the Duke of Norfolk's penny postage proposal. The Ceylon Government was quite in the dark, and was not in a position to form an opinion on the subject.—*Straits Times*.

THE WAR.

LAND ATTACK ON SANTIAGO.

General Shafter commenced his attack upon Santiago four miles from the city on the 1st ulto. Three divisions comprising fifteen thousand American and several thousand Cuban troops attacked the city early in the morning. General Wheeler's cavalry made several brilliant charges, and Col. Kent's brigade attacked the Aqueduct battery, the American fleet pouring the while a heavy fire into the Spanish lines. Heavy fighting continued all day and resulted in the capture of the outer defences. The Spaniards fought stubbornly, but were greatly handicapped owing to the weakness of their artillery. Admiral Cervera fired upon the attacking troops with serious results. The shells wrought heavy destruction on the shells literally annihilating an entire company. Simultaneously with General Shafter's attack upon Santiago de Cuba, Admiral Sampson bombarded the Norte and Estrella forts. The shelling of the dynamite gun cruiser *Venezuela*, 9,000 tons, was most deadly. The Spaniards contested the American advance inch by inch; but a terrible fire at last broke the line and compelled a retreat towards the outer forts. Shells pitched in front of the Spaniards' retreat had deadly results.

Fighting was resumed on the outskirts of Santiago the next morning at day-break, the entire American reserves being in the trenches ordered to the front. The battle lasted all day and was of an indecisive character. General Shafter's attack was directed upon the San Juan forts. A masked battery wrought great havoc among the Michigan volunteers, Colonel Roosevelt's "Rough Riders," and Colonel Wood's cavalry whilst they were advancing in two divisions, and amongst the infantry in support. For two days the fighting was most severe. Eventually the Spaniards were captured without the aid of artillery. While this movement was being executed ashore Admiral Sampson's fleet, at a distance of two thousand yards, poured a fusillade of shells into the Moro forts, which were ultimately silenced and their overcooking battlements demolished. The fire from the United States battleship *Oregon*, 10,238 tons, lowered the Spanish flag, while the rest of the fleet succeeded in destroying the Punta Gorda batteries. The Spaniards' fire was generally ineffective. At the close of the fighting on Saturday, the hospital was crowded with wounded. A report received from New York states that the American losses, including killed and wounded, number two thousand; they took two thousand prisoners. On Sunday, the 3rd instant, the American army completed the investment of the city, and awaited reinforcements. The Spaniards' total losses are, it is believed, over two thousand, the trenches before Santiago being lined with dead.

The Secretary of State for War has telegraphed to General Shafter the thanks of the nation for his brilliant work in the field.

DESTRUCTION OF CERVERA'S FLEET.

It appears that Admiral Sampson allowed the Spanish squadron to make its exit from the harbour of Santiago on the 3rd ulto. With the Admiral's flagship leading, the squadron escaped the torpedoes which were laid in single file. As the squadron steamed westward the American shot and shell swept the Spanish vessels from stem to stern. The *Indiana*, *Texas*, and *Oregon* pursued the *Christibal Colon*, for sixty miles. The Spanish guns were well served. On being headed off the coast the *Christibal Colon* attempted to run between the American warships, when the *Toba* and *Texas* closed—the gap—thence under a scathing fire the Spanish ship raced between the two battleships for a distance of three thousand yards when she was forced ashore blazing. The *Texas* and *Indiana* next attacked the *Vizcaya* and the *Almirante Oquendo*, which refused to yield. It was not till they were on fire for their entire length that they were forced ashore twenty miles from the mouth of the harbour. The Spanish torpedo-destroyers repeatedly struck the American auxiliary cruiser *Gloucester*, and attempted to torpedo the *Indiana*.

The shells discharged from the *Indiana* sent one destroyer ashore, a burning and battered abandoned the scene struggling to reach the shore. Admiral Sampson reports that he holds thirteen hundred prisoners, including Admiral Cervera, who is wounded, while the American casualties are one killed and two wounded. It appears that Admiral Cervera chanced putting to sea, deciding to sink his ships fighting in preference to dying like a rat in a trap. President McKinley has telegraphed to Admiral Sampson, expressing the nation's gratitude for his splendid services. It is reported that the Spaniards never offered to surrender, except when their ships were sinking. A boat from the United States auxiliary cruiser *Gloucester* rescued Admiral Cervera, and also several of *Vizcaya's* officers. On being taken aboard, the American captain congratulated his fallen foe upon his great gallantry. It is stated that the American warships have emerged from the battle altogether unharmed. It has been reported that the Spanish losses numbered 350 killed, 100 wounded, and 1,500 taken prisoners.

Most of the prisoners are being sent to America. Admiral Cervera, in a despatch to the Spanish Minister of Marine, stated that those of his men not captured by the Americans were lost at sea. To an interviewer, he explains that he selected day-break to endeavour to escape from the harbour believing that at that early hour the American warships would be under low steam. He states that he stood on the bridge of the *Infanta Maria Teresa* throughout, having transferred his flag where there was more danger to be apprehended than on the *Christibal Colon*. Admiral Cervera's dash was a complete surprise to the Americans. Admiral Sampson was away conferring with General Shafter, and Admiral Schley directed the fight.

NILE EXPEDITION.

The preparations for the Anglo-Egyptian advance on Khartoum, which is expected to begin about the middle of August, are being pushed forward. It is stated that the Sirdar (Sir H. Kitchener) will have under his command twenty-two battalions of infantry, representing about 15,000 men, 1,500 cavalry, thirty-eight guns, twelve Maxim guns, 200 mules, 200 camels and horses, a force which should be able to give a good account of any army which the Khalifa may be able to muster. It is not at all likely that the Khalifa will be able to muster as many men as the Mahdi was able to attract to his colours. His chief supporters are the members of his own tribe, the Baggaras. A defeat will at once place the Khalifa and other tribes on the side of the Khalifa's enemy, eager to avenge years of cruelty and oppression. Already desertions have begun. The distance from Berber to Omdurman is about one hundred miles, the sixth cataract being about seventy miles from the first-named place. When the forward movement is made, it will be full Nile, and the march through the desert will keep in touch with the river, up which the gunboats can steam all the way to Khartoum. It is believed that after one serious fight with the Sirdar's force, the enemy will evacuate the city where General Kitchener is encamped. In that case the decisive battle will be fought at Omdurman, or in its neighbourhood.

CORRESPONDENCE.

(We do not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed by Correspondents in this column.)

"MAKING NIGHT HIDEOUS."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH."
DEAR SIR,—The inhabitants of Kowloon are at present much disturbed at night by the braying of a couple of assinine idiots. I use the term "braying" advisedly, for the persons in question, not content with the power of their own voices, have invested in megaphones, by means of which they are enabled to make their demands for whisky and soda heard over the whole of the European quarter.
As though this nuisance in itself were not sufficient they must needs cry for help and draw offending passers-by into all sorts of uncomfortable and disagreeable situations to render aid to someone who is supposed to have fallen down a well or into a ditch.
As many of us are early birds and in the habit of getting about nine or ten o'clock it seems a pity that the brayers upon megaphones are not proceeded against by the police for creating a nuisance.

I and my friends in distress trust that the publication of our woes in your valuable paper may cause much disturbed at night by their brayings to the daytime, for they are an unmitigated nuisance at night.

Disrespectfully yours,
TSIM TSAT TSUI,
Kowloon, 4th August, 1898.

PEKING.

(From A Correspondent.)

July 31st.
SETTLEMENTS EXTENSION.
There is very little of interest going on here at present. One thing, however, I think should be known in Shanghai. Sir Claude MacDonald, for some reason or other, is of opinion that the time is not opportune for pushing the question of Settlements Extension. I heard yesterday that it had been indefinitely shelved, and knowing that it was a question of intense local interest I called on the Spanish Minister, who is the *Doyen* of the *Corps Diplomatique*, and asked him (such was the case). He assured me that it was not so, but that practically all the Ministers being absent from Peking nothing could be done until their return, probably about the middle of September. I also spoke with Mr. Pethick, Li Hung-chang's secretary, on the matter, and he takes an entirely opposite view to Sir Claude. He says that the Chinese approve of the extension in principle, and quite recognise the justice of the demand. In his opinion, the time is ripe for pressure to be put upon the Tungli Yamen in the matter, and that if it is done the desired extension will be granted.

July 22nd.

MR. DETTING'S SCHEME.
Mr. Detting arrived here yesterday and placed before the Tungli Yamen an application for a concession to work coal mines within a certain specified area, on the same basis as the Kaiping colliery, in the province of Chihli. It is said, and I have every reason to believe it to be true, that he is selling in the interests of a German syndicate, who have offered to lease a sum equivalent to about £50,000 for the concession. The general impression seems to be that the request will be granted, in which case the Tungli Yamen will have to give up the province cannot hope to compete with mines which coal equal in quality and so much nearer the seaboard.

RELUCTANT SHANGHAI.

There is said to be a deal of trouble brewing in Shanghai on account of the concession, a determination having been expressed by the populace, inspired no doubt by the officials, not to allow the introduction of foreign machinery and plant. It remains to be seen, however, what action, if any, the people and officials will take when the time for working the concession arrives.—*N. C. Daily News*.

TENDENCY OF EXCESSIVE CYCLING TO PRODUCE HEART DISEASE.

Considering the enormous number of cyclists in the United Kingdom it is desirable that any contribution to a knowledge of the effects of cycling on health and constitution should be carefully studied by sanitarians, and by cyclists themselves. This mode of recreation has undoubtedly advantages and attractions, but it also has, like all mundane pleasures, its drawbacks. We know, everyone knows, both men and women who, though three years ago they would have regarded a walk of five miles as an arduous undertaking, not to be lightly attempted if a cab or omnibus could be obtained, think nothing now of a wheel run of twenty or thirty times the distance. In fact, the majority of cyclists are in excellent risk of overdoing what, in moderation, would be a healthful exercise and an agreeable pastime. Their main trouble of conversation seems to be about "spinning along," "scorching," and "record-breaking." The consequences of these foolish attempts to annihilate time and distance is that no small portion of them most certainly succeed in doing themselves serious injury of some sort. The most frequently met with of these is a "crate" dilatation of the heart, and functions, a degeneration, more especially in the case of novices or untrained persons. There is one special cyclist who ought to be particularly careful not to overdo the pastime—viz, the *old* who have already reached or passed the middle period of life, and in whom changes may have begun to take place in different organs and tissues, such as the coats of the blood-vessels.—*Health News*.

HINTS TO SMOKERS.

A German physician publishes the following hints to smokers, which we quote from a translation in *The Pharmaceutical Era*, New York. The hints, the doctor says, "are founded upon his professional observations for many years of the health, teeth, stomach, lungs, heart, and skin of the devotees of tobacco. The first and foremost rule is never to smoke before breakfast, nor, as a rule, when the stomach is empty. Never smoke during any exertion of great physical energy, as dancing, running, cycling, mountain climbing, or rowing, and especially if in a contest. Never follow the bad custom of the French and the Russians by allowing the smoke to pass through the nose; never inhale it through the nose. Keep the smoke as far as possible from the eyes and nose; the longer the pipe the better; the use of a short pipe during work is to be avoided. A pipe is the most wholesome form of smoking. Always throw away your cigar as soon as you have smoked four-fifths of it. The smoker should rinse his mouth with a glass of water in which a teaspoonful of table salt has been dissolved. It should be used as a gargle at night, and care should be taken that every cavity in the teeth is well washed with it."

